

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 /057 W

----- 130855

R 141104Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2713

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 6362

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, PINS, SC, ASEAN

SUBJ: MEETING OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: A. JAKARTA 3906; B. MANILA 4230; C. JAKARTA 4328

1. A RANKING MEMBER OF THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT WITHIN THE THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TALKED WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER APRIL 7. HE ASSURED US THAT THERE HAD TO HIS KNOWLEDGE BEEN NO THAI REQUEST FOR AN ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BANGKOK TO DISCUSS INDOCHINA AS REPORTED IN REF A. THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN DURING AN APRIL 5 NEWS CONFERENCE HAD MENTIONED THAT ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT WELL DISCUSS POLITICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INDO-CHINA SITUATION AT THEIR NEXT MEETING. ACCORDING TO THE MFA OFFICIAL CHATCHAI WAS REFERRING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULED IN KUALA LUMPUR MAY 13-15.

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2. ANOTHER MFA OFFICIAL TOLD THE SAME EMBASSY OFFICER APRIL

7, HOWEVER, THAT THE THAI HAD "FLOATED" WITH THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES A PROPOSAL TO HOLD A SPECIAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING REGARDING INDOCHINA. INDONESIA HAD REPLIED POSITIVELY, BUT MALAYSIAN AND SINGAPORE WERE NEGATIVE, WHILE THE PHILIPPINES HAD NOT ANSWERED AT ALL. THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT THERE WOULD THEREFORE BE NO SPECIAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING TO DISCUSS INDOCHINA.

3. CHATCHAI REMARKED TO THE CHARGE THAT THE MAY MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR WOULD TAKE UP INDOCHINA. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF POLICY PLANNING TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR APRIL 14 THAT HE FELT THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TIME TO HOLD A SPECIAL FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE BEFORE THE SCHEDULED MAY MEETING.

4. COMMENT: WE WOULD ESTIMATE THAT CHATCHAI, AT LEAST PARTIALLY FOR SELF-PROMOTION, FLOATED THE IDEA FOR A SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN BANGKOK. IT DID NOT INITIALLY ENCOUNTER ASEAN UNANIMITY, AND HE BACKED OFF. A SHORTAGE OF TIME HAS HINDERED RECONSIDERATION. CHATCHAI MAY HAVE CUT OUT OF THE PICTURE THE FIRST MFA OFFICIAL WE TALKED TO, OR THE OFFICIAL COULD HAVE LIED TO US. THE SUHARTO SUGGESTION FOR AN ASEAN SUMMIT (REF-TEL B) MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER MAY, IF IT OCCURS AT ALL.
MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

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